## What is Claimed is:

1.    A method of determining an intended addressee of a mailpiece using an incoming mailpiece sorting apparatus with an OCR system, the method comprising the steps of:

*Optical character recog.*

    a)    using a post OCR database coupled to the incoming mailpiece sorting apparatus to attempt to determine the intended addressee of the mailpiece if the OCR system was unable to determine the intended addressee of the mailpiece.

2.    The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

    b)    delivering the mailpiece to a designated sort bin, if the intended recipient of the mailpiece is determined using the post OCR database.

3.    The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

    b)    delivering the mailpiece to a designated reject sort bin, if the intended recipient of the mailpiece is not determined using the post OCR database.

4.    A method of sorting mailpieces using an incoming mailpiece sorting apparatus comprising, the method comprising the steps of:

    a)  using an OCR system and database coupled to the incoming mailpiece sorting apparatus to attempt to determine an intended addressee of the mailpiece;

    b)  using a post OCR database coupled to the incoming mailpiece sorting apparatus to attempt to determine the intended addressee of the mailpiece if the OCR system was unable to determine the intended addressee of the mailpiece; and

    c)  delivering the mailpiece to a designated sort bin, if the intended recipient of the mailpiece is determined using the OCR system and database or the post OCR database.

5.    The method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising the step of:

d)      delivering the mailpiece to a designated reject sort bin, if the intended recipient of the mailpiece is not determined using the OCR system and database or the post OCR database.

6.      A method of sorting mailpieces using an incoming mailpiece sorting apparatus comprising a feeder, an OCR system, a control system and two or more sort bins, the method comprising the steps of:

a)      providing an OCR database coupled to the OCR system of the incoming mailpiece sorting apparatus, the OCR database containing addressee information;

b)      providing a post OCR database coupled to the control system of the incoming mailpiece sorting apparatus;

c)      processing a mailpiece by using the OCR database to attempt to determine the intended recipient of the mailpiece;

d)      delivering the mailpiece to a designated sort bin of the two or more sort bins, if the intended recipient of the mailpiece is determined using the OCR database;

e)      processing the mailpiece using the post OCR database , if the intended recipient of the mailpiece is not determined using the OCR database;

f)      delivering the mailpiece to a designated sort bin of the two or more sort bins, if the intended recipient of the mailpiece is determined using the post OCR database; and

g)      delivering the mailpiece to a designated reject sort bin of the two or more sort bins, if the intended recipient of the mailpiece is not determined using the post OCR database.

7.      The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein in step a) the OCR database comprises addressee information in data fields.

8.      The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein in step b) the post OCR database comprises characteristic information about the addressee information in the data fields of the OCR database.

9. The method as claimed in claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

     h)      storing information about the number of mailpieces processed including a number of reject mailpieces processed, a number of mailpieces which were automatically readable and for which addressee segments from the mailpiece were matched to the addressee information in the OCR database or the post OCR database; and

     i)      calculating statistical information using the mailpiece sorting apparatus.

10.      An mailpiece sorting apparatus for processing reject mailpieces, the mailpiece sorting apparatus configured to processes a stack of mailpieces along a feed path and reading each mailpiece from the stack of mailpieces as each mailpiece travels along the feed path and through an OCR station, the mailpiece sorting apparatus further configured for processing individual reject mailpieces for which the addressee was unidentifiable through the use of the OCR station, the apparatus comprising:

     a feed station for feeding and separating the stack of mail;

     two or more bins for receiving mailpieces after the mailpieces travel along the feed path; and

     the OCR station for reading addressee information from the mailpieces as they are moved along the feed path and interpreting addressee information; and

     a software system and a first and second database for identifying the addressee and determining an appropriate delivery bin from the two or more bins for receiving the mailpieces, the first database being an OCR database and containing addressee information, the second database being a post OCR database containing characteristic information about the addressee information in the OCR database;

whereby if addressee information is identifiable by the OCR system or the post OCR database, the mailpiece is delivered to an appropriate sort bin of the two or more bins for receiving the mailpieces.

11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein the post OCR database comprises characteristic information regarding various fields in the OCR database.

12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 11 wherein the characteristic information comprises whether a field is alphanumeric.

13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 11 wherein the characteristic information comprises information about whether a field shares common identification characteristics with other information in the same field.

14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 further comprising:

a voice recognition system coupled to the mailpiece sorting apparatus for inputting address information that was unidentifiable by the OCR system and the post OCR database; and

whereby if humanly identifiable information is available from the mailpiece that was unidentifiable by the OCR station, an operator inputs the humanly identifiable addressee information from the mailpiece into the voice recognition system so that the mailpiece can be delivered to the appropriate delivery bin from the two or more bins for receiving the mailpieces.

15. The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

b) storing information about the number of mailpieces processed including a number of reject mailpieces processed, a number of mailpieces which were automatically readable and for which addressee segments from the mailpiece were matched to the addressee information from the OCR system or the post OCR database; and

c) calculating statistical information using the incoming mailpiece sorting apparatus.